

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01526 252249Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 01526

USEEC

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SUBJ: SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN EC UNEMPLOYMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 17204

1. THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS IMPROVED SLIGHTLY, ACCORDING TO THE EC COMMISSION'S LATEST MONTHLY REPORT ON JOBLESS PERSONS REGISTERED AT PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1977 CREPT UP TO JUST OVER THE SIX MILLION MARK FOR THE NINE EC COUNTRIES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS INDICATE A SLIGHT DOWNWARD TREND. THE ADJUSTED FIGURE FOR DECEMBER SHOWS 5.9 MILLION UNEMPLOYED, DOWN FROM A PEAK OF NEARLY SIX MILLION IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1977, BUT THE DECEMBER 1977 FIGURE IS STILL 600,000 HIGHER THAN THAT OF DECEMBER 1976.

2. THE DECEMBER-TO-DECEMBER COMPARISONS IN THE EC, WITH BREAKOUTS BY SEX:

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01526 252249Z POSS DUPE

DECEMBER 1977 DECEMBER 1976 CHANGE

MALE	3,505	3,283	PLUS 6.8 PERCENT
FEMALE	2,539	2,200	PLUS 15.4 "
TOTAL	6,044	5,483	PLUS 10.2 "

4. THE ABOVE FIGURES ARE NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED. THOSE FOR DECEMBER 1977 ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION BECAUSE FIGURES FOR ITALY ARE PRELIMINARY. IN PREVIOUS REPORTS FINAL COMMISSION FIGURES FOR ITALY HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN PRELIMINARY ONES.

5. THE LATEST COMMISSION REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGES OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE). THESE RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR 1977 AND 1976 ARE:

	1977	1976
BELGIUM	7.8 PERCENT	6.8 PERCENT
DENMARK	5.9	4.7
FRANCE	4.9	4.3
GERMANY	4.0	4.1
HOLLAND	4.3	4.4
IRELAND	9.7	9.8
ITALY	7.0	6.0
LUXEMBOURG	0.6	0.3
UNITED KINGDOM	5.8	5.3
EC-9 AVERAGE	5.4	5.0

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01526 252249Z POSS DUPE

6. THE COMMISSION REPORT WARNS THAT COMPARISONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES "SHOULD ONLY BE MADE WITH EXTREME CAUTION BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES," AND SAYS THAT TRENDS WITHIN COUNTRIES ARE MORE SIGNIFICANT.

7. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COMMISSION PROVIDED DETAILED COMPARISONS BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT, IN THIS CASE FOR THE YEAR 1977. AVERAGE RATES FOR 1977 BY COUNTRY:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
BELGIUM	4.9 PERCENT	13.0 PERCENT	7.8 PERCENT
DENMARK	6.0	5.9	5.9
FRANCE	3.7	6.8	4.9
GERMANY	3.3	5.2	4.0
HOLLAND	# 4.2 PERCENT	# 4.6 PERCENT	4.3
IRELAND	# 10.7	# 6.9	9.7
ITALY	6.0	9.4	7.0
LUXEMBOURG	0.5	# 0.8	0.6
U.K.	6.7	4.2	5.8

EC-9 AVERAGE # 5.0 # 6.3 5.4

NOTE: CROSSHATCHES INDICATE ESTIMATES MADE BY EC
COMMISSION STATISTICAL OFFICE. HINTON

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